

ABSTRACT

5 The invention provides, in a general sense, a new labeling strategy employing
 ^{99m}Tc chelated with ethylenedicysteine (EC). EC is conjugated with a variety of ligands
 and chelated to ^{99m}Tc for use as an imaging agent for tissue-specific diseases. The drug
 conjugates of the invention may also be used as a prognostic tool or as a tool to deliver
 therapeutics to specific sites within a mammalian body. Kits for use in tissue-specific
 disease imaging are also provided.

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